

Law Enforcement - Mendocino County Sheriff (FINAL)

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:

Version # _____

APP # 700506

ITEM 1. Proposed Project

The South Cow Mountain OHV Recreation Area is in central Mendocino County, bordering the eastern county line and including some areas within Lake County. BLM is unable to provide adequate staffing to provide proactive law enforcement service. The Lake County Sheriff's Department does not have adequate staffing to patrol the area of land in their county either. In years past Mendocino County Sheriff's Office has provided staffing for the South Cow Mountain OHV Recreation area with a deputy assigned to the area for his patrol duties. This assignment was in partnership with the BLM office in Ukiah using this grant as the main funding source.

The proposed project will provide enhanced law enforcement patrol and presence in the Cow Mountain OHV Recreation area of Mendocino County, including some of Lake County as well. This area is secluded and much of it is accessible only by OHV and/or four wheel drive vehicles. With an increased public awareness of the budgetary challenges faced by all agencies, staffing and security measures have been reduced making this area prime for illegal activities. Those who may not have taken advantage of these recreational areas in the past are doing so now because of the relative low cost. These remote recreational areas and hard to access lands are seeing an increased amount of illegal, unsafe and disruptive activity because of the lack of law enforcement presence. These activities are a serious threat to the environment and a danger to public safety. All visitors who use these areas have a right to be safe from those who are unsafe, disruptive and those who use these lands for illegal activities.

The plan with this grant is to provide over 1500 hours per year of patrol specifically targeting this recreation area to maintain safety and deter illegal activity. Historically security patrol has been limited, as staffing levels do not provide for our employees to provide any "routine patrol" in this area because of its remoteness. Our plan will be to target these illegal, unsafe and disruptive users by limited "routine patrol" and using OHV transportation (made possible with this grant funding), to allow our staff to cover more OHV area. We will work with the local BLM staff to provide mutually agreeable patrols in the areas and during the times of the most need to have an effective plan. Our staff will make stops, contacts and arrests as needed to work towards our collaborative efforts. Our staff will also provide education to OHV users concerning the proper uses of the OHV area and to enforce OHV laws. When needed our staff will also provide search and rescue efforts for the OHV users of the area. Most of the land surrounding the OHV recreation area is private property and it is important to increase the law enforcement presence in the OHV recreation area to discourage OHV trespass. This creates problems for the OHV users as well as the property owners in the area.

In remote areas such as this, there have been many marijuana gardens discovered by OHV users. With more law enforcement presence and proactive activities by law enforcement the criminal element will be less willing to risk discovery of illegal marijuana growing and will move to other locations. This will keep the OHV users safe from the associated risks of this activity.

As the outreach and awareness of OHV recreation improves the lands available for this type of outdoor recreation become more crowded, however, all agencies are facing budgetary challenges that restrict their ability to provide adequate patrol to these areas. Our plan will augment the patrol of our partner agencies and will be scheduled to patrol these areas when the use is at its highest.

The Mendocino County Sheriff and his staff wish to improve the safety and enjoyment of the OHV public, the officer safety of our allied agency personnel and the surrounding landowners of the OHV recreation area. We once had a very successful patrol operation for this OHV recreation area and are hopeful about restarting this program. Once this program is revived our personnel will meet with various 4x4 clubs, youth groups and local schools to promote safe OHV recreation and responsible stewardship of our public lands. Money from this grant will be used to provide funding to place law enforcement patrols and to purchase the appropriate equipment for the most effective program.

ITEM 2. Project Coverage

Mendocino County is a rural county with hundreds of miles of roads and trails for the legal use of OHV recreation. Hundreds of acres of public and private lands are not open to legal use but are victimized by illegal OHV activity. Additionally, there are thousands of acres of both public and private lands in the County that are prime for both legal and illegal OHV activities. We will enhance the patrols in South Cow Mountain OHV Recreation area under the responsibility of the BLM and surrounded by private land owners by providing over 1500 hours of patrol time in the area. With the patrols in the OHV recreation area we will provide additional law enforcement presence which will make this area safer and more enjoyable for the OHV motoring public. We hope that this added safety will encourage the OHV users to frequent this designated area which will lower the number of illegal OHV uses in the county.

ITEM 3. Describe the frequency of the patrols

This project will allow specialized patrols to occur two or more days a week, an increase from none. We will aim for specialized patrols at times of higher usage such as hunting season, special events and times of higher OHV recreational usage. We will coordinate with the BLM law enforcement units responsible for the OHV recreational area. As the different seasons occur we will coordinate with the allied agencies for enhanced law enforcement coordination. This will be beneficial to the cooperative relationships with these agencies and will help to detect and deter criminal activities in these identified areas.

ITEM 4. Deployment of Personnel

The plan is to deploy two deputies at a time for safety reasons and they will target the times of higher use with particular attention on the weekends. The project will allow deputies to work these shifts with no other "routine" patrol responsibilities. We will work with BLM for a mutually beneficial patrol schedule. Funding through this grant would allow for 40 hours of patrol time per month as well as extra days and times of patrol for higher usage times and special events. The patrol schedule would include two deputies for two weekends per month for the regular patrol and allow for up to two more weekends per month for special events and high OHV usage times.

LE Certification

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Law Enforcement - Page 1

1. Identify areas with high priority law enforcement needs because of public safety, cultural resources, and sensitive environmental habitats, including wilderness areas and areas of critical environmental concerns:

Areas of high priority include those areas where OHV recreation is compromised by illegal or unsafe users. During the OHV recreation patrols we would discourage and investigate illegal dumping, reckless firearms usage, unsafe OHV operation and other activities that jeopardize public safety. The areas of OHV recreational use is a priority based on the environmental damage they do by not riding on established trails, operating in any unsafe manner, camping in non-designated areas and shooting in unapproved areas. As costs increase for refuse disposal, these lands have also become popular for illegal dumping of waste, appliances, furniture and abandoned vehicles.

2. Describe how the proposed Project relates to OHV Recreation and will sustain OHV Recreation, motorized off-highway access to non-motorized recreation, or OHV Opportunities associated with the Project Area:

This area specific to OHV recreation is subjected to illegal activity by OHV users and other public because of the combination of remoteness and lack of sufficient law enforcement presence. Providing more law enforcement presence will help to discourage much of the illegal activity that occurs there now. Some of this illegal activity is perpetrated by the OHV users and some by the public who frequent this area because of its beauty and lack of law enforcement presence. By increasing the enforcement of OHV and other laws we will help sustain OHV recreation by keeping it in the areas designed and maintained for this activity and taking enforcement action when needed for the illegal activities and by simply having law enforcement personnel in the area on a more frequent basis. This enforcement allows law enforcement officers to stop, and hold accountable, those who are responsible for any illegal activity and/or any damage they cause.

3. Describe the Applicant's formal or informal cooperation with other law enforcement agencies:

The Mendocino County Sheriff's Office takes pride in the relationships and level of cooperation we have developed and maintain. We have letters of support for this project from Cal Fire, State Parks and several private land owners. We have also met directly with the BLM field office personnel who support this project as well. Although we have no official MOU between us, we all agree that this project is in the best interest of the lands in question and to the safety of the citizens who use this land.

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4. Does the Applicant recover a portion of the law enforcement costs directly associated with privately sponsored OHV events where sponsors have obtained a local permit? (Please select Yes or No)



Yes



No

Explain

No, we do not regulate, plan or approve any events of such.

5. The Applicant agrees to implement a public education program that includes information on safety programs available in the area and how to report OHV violations? (Please select Yes or No)



Yes



No

6. Describe the Applicant's OHV law enforcement training program including how the training program educates personnel to address OHV safety and natural and cultural resource protection:

This is a new project proposal and at this time we have no such program to address OHV safety and training. However, we are finding that with fewer resources available to local governing agencies, the Sheriff's Office is routinely becoming responsible for duties that had been delegated to other departments or agencies in the past. If we are successful with this grant application we will begin the process to properly train and educate not only our staff but the public as well. We have already begun the process of selecting personnel to coordinate this program.

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7. Is the proposed project in accordance with local or federal plans and the OHMVR Division Strategic Plan? (Please select Yes or No) ☒ Yes ☐ No
8. LOCAL AGENCIES ONLY - Describe the Applicant's policies and/or agreements regarding enforcement on federal land:
We enforce state laws on federal Indian land within our county as per US Public Law 280. An MOU with the US Corp of Engineers provides for a limited amount of patrol at Lake Mendocino. Another MOU exists with USFS for a very limited amount of patrol in the Eastern portion of Mendocino County. We have in the past had an MOU to provide law enforcement personnel for patrol on the South Cow Mountain OHV recreation area.
9. COUNTIES ONLY - Describe how the OHV in-lieu of tax funds are being used and whether the use of these fees complements the Applicant's project:
The fees go into a County administrative trust fund accessed by the County CEO. We will be seeking these funds to help with this project.

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10. APPLICANTS WHO MANAGE OHV RECREATION FACILITIES – Describe how your organization is meeting its operation and maintenance needs:
This county agency has no responsibility to manage any OHV Recreational Facilities.
11. The Applicant agrees to enforce the registration of OHVs and the other provision of Division 16.5 commencing with Section 38000 of the vehicle code and to enforce other applicable laws regarding the operation of OHVs? (Please select Yes or No) ☒ Yes ☐ No

Project Cost Estimate

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:				Version # _____	APP # _____
APPLICANT NAME :	Mendocino County Sheriff's Office				
PROJECT TITLE :	Law Enforcement - Mendocino County Sheriff (FINAL)			PROJECT NUMBER (Division use only) :	G09-03-52-L01
PROJECT TYPE :	<input type="checkbox"/> Acquisition <input type="checkbox"/> Development <input type="checkbox"/> Education & Safety <input type="checkbox"/> Ground Operations <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Law Enforcement <input type="checkbox"/> Planning <input type="checkbox"/> Restoration				
PROJECT DESCRIPTION :	<p>The South Cow Mountain OHV Recreation Area is in central Mendocino County, bordering the eastern county line and including some areas within Lake County. BLM is unable to provide adequate staffing to provide proactive law enforcement service. The Lake County Sheriff's Department does not have adequate staffing to patrol the area of land in their county either. In years past Mendocino County Sheriff's Office has provided staffing for the South Cow Mountain OHV Recreation area with a deputy assigned to the area for his patrol duties. This assignment was in partnership with the BLM office in Ukiah using this grant as the main funding source.</p> <p>The proposed project will provide enhanced law enforcement patrol and presence in the Cow Mountain OHV Recreation area of Mendocino County, including some of Lake County as well. This area is secluded and much of it is accessible only by OHV and/or four wheel drive vehicles. With an increased public awareness of the budgetary challenges faced by all agencies, staffing and security measures have been reduced making this area prime for illegal activities. Those who may not have taken advantage of these recreational areas in the past are doing so now because of the relative low cost. These remote recreational areas and hard to access lands are seeing an increased amount of illegal, unsafe and disruptive activity because of the lack of law enforcement presence. These activities are a serious threat to the environment and a danger to public safety. All visitors who use these areas have a right to be safe from those who are unsafe, disruptive and those who use these lands for illegal activities.</p> <p>The plan with this grant is to provide over 1500 hours per year of patrol specifically targeting this recreation area to maintain safety and deter illegal activity. Historically security patrol has been limited, as staffing levels do not provide for our employees to provide any "routine patrol" in this area because of its remoteness. Our plan will be to target these illegal, unsafe and disruptive users by limited "routine patrol" and using OHV transportation (made possible with this grant funding), to allow our staff to cover more OHV area. We will work with the local BLM staff to provide mutually agreeable patrols in the areas and during the times of the most need to have an effective plan. Our staff will make stops, contacts and arrests as needed to work towards our collaborative efforts. Our staff will also provide education to OHV users concerning the proper uses of the OHV area and to enforce OHV laws. When needed our staff will also provide search and rescue efforts for the OHV users of the area. Most of the land surrounding the OHV recreation area is private property and it is important to increase the law enforcement presence in the OHV recreation area to discourage OHV trespass. This creates problems for the OHV users as well as the property owners in the area.</p> <p>In remote areas such as this, there have been many marijuana gardens discovered by OHV users. With more law enforcement presence and proactive activities by law enforcement the criminal element will be less willing to risk discovery of illegal marijuana growing and will move to other locations. This will keep the OHV users safe from the associated risks of this activity.</p> <p>As the outreach and awareness of OHV recreation improves the lands available for this type of outdoor recreation become more crowded, however, all agencies are facing budgetary challenges that restrict their ability to provide adequate patrol to these areas. Our plan will augment the patrol of our partner agencies and will be scheduled to patrol these areas when the use is at its highest.</p>				

Project Cost Estimate for Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program - 2009/2010
Agency: Mendocino County Sheriff's Office
Application: Law Enforcement - Mendocino County Sheriff (FINAL)

3/1/2010

<p>The Mendocino County Sheriff and his staff wish to improve the safety and enjoyment of the OHV public, the officer safety of our allied agency personnel and the surrounding landowners of the OHV recreation area. We once had a very successful patrol operation for this OHV recreation area and are hopeful about restarting this program. Once this program is revived our personnel will meet with various 4x4 clubs, youth groups and local schools to promote safe OHV recreation and responsible stewardship of our public lands. Money from this grant will be used to provide funding to place law enforcement patrols and to purchase the appropriate equipment for the most effective program.</p>							
	Line Item	Qty	Rate	UOM	Grant Request	Match	Total
DIRECT EXPENSES							
Program Expenses							
1	Staff						
	Law Enforcement Officers Notes : The hours are calculated at the overtime rate because this is the only way we can provide this service at this time as we do not have staff to do this on a straight time basis. However, the overtime rate is actually lower than the straight time rate because the benefit package is paid on the straight time hours and no benefits are included for the overtime rate. In the future I can lower the cost if the County will allow me to hire seasonal deputies.	1560.000	55.340	HRS	69,949.00	16,381.00	86,330.00
2	Contracts						
3	Materials / Supplies						
	Safety Equipment Notes : helmets, gloves, first aid kit, tow strap, rope.	1.000	250.000	EA	187.00	63.00	250.00
	Other-fuel Notes : fuel	520.000	3.150	EA	0.00	1,638.00	1,638.00
	Total for Materials / Supplies				187.00	1,701.00	1,888.00
4	Equipment Use Expenses						
5	Equipment Purchases						
	Other-OHV (Yamaha RHINO)	1.000	13595.000	EA	13,595.00	0.00	13,595.00
	Other-(Transport Trailer)	1.000	1350.000	EA	1,350.00	0.00	1,350.00

Project Cost Estimate for Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program - 2009/2010
 Agency: Mendocino County Sheriff's Office
 Application: Law Enforcement - Mendocino County Sheriff (FINAL)

3/1/2010

	Line Item	Qty	Rate	UOM	Grant Request	Match	Total
	Total for Equipment Purchases				14,945.00	0.00	14,945.00
6	Others						
7	Indirect Costs						
	Indirect Costs-Indirect Costs	1.000	10316.000	EA	0.00	10,316.00	10,316.00
	Total Program Expenses				85,081.00	28,398.00	113,479.00
	TOTAL DIRECT EXPENSES				85,081.00	28,398.00	113,479.00
	TOTAL EXPENDITURES				85,081.00	28,398.00	113,479.00

Project Cost Summary for Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program - 2009/2010
 Agency: Mendocino County Sheriff's Office
 Application: Law Enforcement - Mendocino County Sheriff (FINAL)

3/1/2010

	Line Item	Grant Request	Match	Total	Narrative
DIRECT EXPENSES					
Program Expenses					
1	Staff	69,949.00	16,381.00	86,330.00	
2	Contracts	0.00	0.00	0.00	
3	Materials / Supplies	187.00	1,701.00	1,888.00	
4	Equipment Use Expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00	
5	Equipment Purchases	14,945.00	0.00	14,945.00	
6	Others	0.00	0.00	0.00	
7	Indirect Costs	0.00	10,316.00	10,316.00	
Total Program Expenses		85,081.00	28,398.00	113,479.00	
TOTAL DIRECT EXPENSES		85,081.00	28,398.00	113,479.00	
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		85,081.00	28,398.00	113,479.00	

Environmental Review Data Sheet (ERDS)

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ITEM 1 and ITEM 2

ITEM 1

- a. ITEM 1 - Has a CEQA Notice of Determination (NOD) been filed for the Project? ☐ Yes ☒ No
(Please select Yes or No)

ITEM 2

- b. Does the proposed Project include a request for funding for CEQA and/or NEPA document preparation prior to implementing the remaining Project Deliverables (i.e., is it a two-phased Project pursuant to Section 4970.06.1(b)) (Please select Yes or No) ☐ Yes ☒ No

ITEM 3 - Project under CEQA Guidelines Section 15378

- c. ITEM 3 - Are the proposed activities a "Project" under CEQA Guidelines Section 15378? ☐ Yes ☒ No
(Please select Yes or No)
- d. The Application is requesting funds solely for personnel and support to enforce OHV laws and ensure public safety. These activities would not cause any physical impacts on the environment and are thus not a "Project" under CEQA. (Please select Yes or No) ☒ Yes ☐ No
- e. Other. Explain why proposed activities would not cause any physical impacts on the environment and are thus not a "Project" under CEQA. DO NOT complete ITEMS 4 – 10

ITEM 4 - Impact of this Project on Wetlands

ITEM 5 - Cumulative Impacts of this Project

ITEM 6 - Soil Impacts

ITEM 7 - Damage to Scenic Resources

ITEM 8 - Hazardous Materials

Is the proposed Project Area located on a site included on any list compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the California Government Code (hazardous materials)? (Please select Yes or No) ☐ Yes ☒ No

If YES, describe the location of the hazard relative to the Project site, the level of hazard and the measures to be taken to minimize or avoid the hazards.

ITEM 9 - Potential for Adverse Impacts to Historical or Cultural Resources

Would the proposed Project have potential for any substantial adverse impacts to historical or cultural resources? (Please select Yes or No) ☐ Yes ☒ No

Discuss the potential for the proposed Project to have any substantial adverse impacts to historical or cultural resources.

ITEM 10 - Indirect Significant Impacts

CEQA/NEPA Attachment